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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA STATEMENT ON GUANTANAMO CASE

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) is pleased to learn that the Obama administration issued a draft executive order today that calls for closing the controversial detention center at Guantanamo Bay within a year and halting any war crimes trials in the meantime.

“ANA is committed to supporting nurses’ efforts to practice according to the values and obligations expressed in the Code. The Code is not negotiable in any setting,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “I think back to my visit to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in late 2006, and the many ethical issues faced by the military nurses providing care to the detainees. Despite their personal feelings, these nurses followed one of the fundamental principles of the ANA Code of Ethics that underlies all nursing practice: respect for the inherent worth, dignity, and human rights for every individual.”

The *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* provides a framework for nurses to use in ethical analysis and decision-making. The Code of Ethics establishes the ethical standard for the profession and is a reflection of the proud ethical heritage of nursing, a guide for nurses now and in the future. The Code of Ethics can be found at

<http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ThePracticeofProfessionalNursing/EthicsStandards.aspx>.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates serving 330,000 members of national nursing specialty organizations, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.